

REMARKS

The Final Office Action dated December 12, 2005, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments and the following remarks are being submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claims 1, 11, and 14 are being amended. Claims 12 and 13 are being cancelled and incorporated in their entirety into Claim 1. Claim 14 is being amended to be in independent form. No new matter is being added. Claims 1, 4 – 8, 10, 11, and 14 are present for reconsideration.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since this Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance for reasons discussed herein; (b) does not raise any new issue regarding further search and/or consideration; (c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

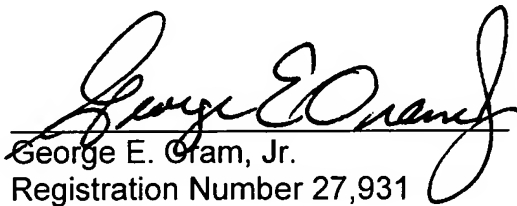
The Examiner indicated that claims 13 and 14 were considered to be allowable if rewritten into independent form. The applicants have done so above. Since Claims 4 – 8, 10, and 11 depend directly or indirectly from allowable Claim 1, it is submitted that all of the pending claims are now allowable. By these amendments, the prior art rejections have been rendered moot.

Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the

Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below to schedule a personal or telephone interview to discuss any remaining issues.

In the event that this paper is not considered to be timely filed, an appropriate extension of time is requested. Any fees for such an extension, together with any additional fees that may be due with respect to this paper, may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account Number 01-2300, referencing Docket Number 108075-00075.

Respectfully submitted,


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Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time